

Message Text

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17

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 SCCT-02 ACDA-19 EB-11 DRC-01 /147 W

----- 056559

R 280910Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0710

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

AMCONSUL BELFAST

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U. K. (N. I.)

SUBJECT: BLOOMFIELD ON SUNNINGDALE, EXECUTIVE AND
LOYALISTS

REF: STATE 20881

FOLLOWING TRANSMITTED BY CONSULATE GENERAL BELFAST:

BEGIN SUMMARY NI EXECUTIVE'S PERMANENT SECRETARY TOLD
US MAY 15 THAT EXECUTIVE IS ENTERING CRUCIAL PERIOD
DURING WHICH IT MUST EITHER AGREE ON HOW TO IMPLEMENT
SUNNINGDALE OR BREAK UP. HE TACITLY CONFIRMED THAT A
PHASED IMPLEMENTATION IS BEING CONSIDERED. SDLP
LEADERSHIP IS BECOMING MORE REALISTIC IN PRIVATE ABOUT
PROBABLE PERSISTENCE OF IRA DESPITE RELEASE OF DETAINEES
AND MOVEMENT ON COUNCIL OF IRELAND A LA SUNNINGDALE. HE
THOUGHT LOYALIST PARAMILITARY ORGANIZATIONS SHARE
GENERAL OUTLOOK OF, AND COOPERATE CLOSELY WITH, LOYALIST
POLITICIANS AND TRADE UNION LEADERS, ARE WELL-ARMED AND
DETERMINED, AND WOULD CERTAINLY FIGHT IN "DOOMSDAY"
SITUATION. SHORT OF THAT THEY ARE CAPABLE OF VARIOUS
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FORMS OF PARAMILITARY ACTIVITY, BUT IT IS DIFFICULT FOR

THEM TO DECIDE, AND OBSERVERS TO PREDICT, WHAT THEY WILL
DO AND CAN ACHIEVE IN LESS-THAN-DOOMSDAY SITUATION.
END SUMMARY

1. PERMANENT SECRETARY TO NI EXECUTIVE, KEN BLOOMFIELD,
TOLD US MAY 16 THAT NEXT FEW WEEKS ARE CRUCIAL FOR
EXECUTIVE. IT CANNOT CONTINUE IN PRESENT STATE OF
AMBIGUITY, AND MUST REACH AGREEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF
SUNNINGDALE AGREEMENT IF IT IS TO SURVIVE. HE TACITLY
CONFIRMED WIDESPREAD PRESS REPORTS THAT EXECUTIVE IS
THINKING ALONG LINES OF APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS OF COUNCIL OF IRELAND, IMPLEMENTATION OF
POLICING PROVISION OF SUNNINGDALE COMMUNIQUE, AND
EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OVER FUGITIVE TERRORISTS,
WHILE DELAYING ESTABLISHMENT OF OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF
COUNCIL OF IRELAND.

2. BLOOMFIELD SAID PRESSURE FOR FORMATION OF COUNCIL OF
IRELAND COMES EQUALLY FROM SDLP AND DUBLIN GOVERNMENT,
BUT LATTER SEEMS LESS WILLING TO BREAK UP EXECUTIVE
OVER ISSUE. RURAL SDLP MEMBERS ATTACH MORE IMPORTANCE
TO COUNCIL OF IRELAND THAN BELFAST MEMBERS DO, AND MOST
SDLP MEMBERS REGARD PROGRESS ON DETENTION AS MORE URGENT
MATTER THAN COUNCIL OF IRELAND. WE INFERRED THAT
RELEASE OF MANY DETAINEES WOULD BE PART OF
HALF-SUNNINGDALE PACKAGE NOW BEING DISCUSSED.
BLOOMFIELD NOTED THAT THOUGH SDLP LEADERS STILL ADHERE
PUBLICLY TO POSITION THAT DETENTION IS NOTHING BUT
RECRUITING SERGEANT FOR IRA AND ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNCIL
OF IRELAND WILL UNDERCUT CATHOLIC SUPPORT FOR IRA,
PRIVATELY THEY ARE MORE REALISTIC ON BOTH POINTS.

3. BLOOMFIELD AGREED THAT (FAULKNER) UNIONIST MORALE

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USIA-15 IO-14 SCCT-02 ACDA-19 EB-11 DRC-01 /147 W

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R 280910Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0711
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AMCONSUL BELFAST

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SEEMS TO HAVE IMPROVED RECENTLY. THIS WAS DUE LESS TO
EXTERNAL CIRCUMSTANCES THAN TO RELIEF AT HAVING ENDED
AMBIGUITY BY FORMING NEW UNIONIST PARTY.

4. BLOOMFIELD SAID EXECUTIVE IS WORKING WELL TOGETHER
ON SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES. AFTER ALL THE PUBLIC
DEBATE ABOUT ITS PARTY COMPOSITION, EXECUTIVE HAS NEVER
TAKEN A VOTE AND PROCEEDS BY CONSENSUS, AFTER FREE
DEBATE UNINHIBITED BY CONSIDERATIONS OF PARTY SOLIDARITY.

5. ANALYZING ORGANIZATION, CAPABILITIES AND INTENTIONS
OF EXTREMIST PROTESTANT ORGANIZATIONS (STATE 20881),
BLOOMFIELD SAID THAT IN BOTH COMMUNITIES IN NI,
ORGANIZATIONS ARE STRONGLY SUBJECT TO GRASS-ROOTS
OPINION. PARAMILITARY ELEMENTS IN ULSTER ARMY COUNCIL,
WORKERS IN ULSTER WORKERS COUNCIL, AND POLITICIANS IN
UNITED ULSTER UNIONIST COUNCIL HAVE BROADLY SIMILAR
VIEWS ON CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION, AND "COMMITTEE
RELATIONSHIP" WITH EACH OTHER, COLLABORATING PRIVATELY
AND TO SOME EXTENT PUBLICLY. THERE IS NO DOUBT
PARAMILITARY ELEMENTS ARE WELL ARMED AND THAT THERE IS
LOYALIST CONSENSUS THEY SHOULD FIGHT TO DEFEND
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PROTESTANT COMMUNITIES AND NI TERRITORY IN "DOOMSDAY"
SITUATION -- BRITISH ARMY WITHDRAWAL OR NEUTRALIZATION,
OR IRA OR DUBLIN GOVERNMENT ARMY INTERVENTION, AIMED AT
FORCING THEM INTO UNITED IRELAND. IN CURRENT SECURITY
AND POLITICAL SITUATION THERE CAN ALSO BE SHORT BURSTS
OF PURPOSEFUL MILITARY ACTIVITY, UNPLANNED
OUTBURSTS OF VIOLENCE, AND CONTINUING PATTERN OF
ASSASSINATION, BOMBING AND INTIMIDATION AGAINST
CATHOLIC CIVILIANS. BUT LOYALISTS FIND IT DIFFICULT TO
DECIDE, AND OBSERVERS TO PREDICT, HOW THEY CAN REACT
EFFECTIVELY TO LESS-THAN-DOOMSDAY SITUATIONS. FOR
EXAMPLE, BLOOMFIELD THOUGHT THEY DID NOT REALLY BELIEVE
ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNCIL OF IRELAND ALONG SUNNINGDALE
LINES REPRESENTS DOOMSDAY, DESPITE APOCALYPTIC
RHETORIC.

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